

SITUATION REPORT NO. 3

INCIDENT NO. 2002- 007

DATE: January 19, 2002

TIME: 3:00 p.m.

TO: Governor John Hoeven
State Capitol
Bismarck, N.D. 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Train Derailment - A large anhydrous ammonia plume enveloped significant portions of the Minot area.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: Local officials reported 123 people were treated at Trinity Medical Center in Minot as of 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 19, 2002. Fifteen have been admitted, and five have been placed in ICU.
3. DAMAGES: Approximately 30 homes near the derailment site remain evacuated. Local officials anticipate residents may still not be able to return for 24 to 48 hours to the Terricita Vallejo subdivision.

In McHenry County, the anhydrous plume drifted into the community of Deering and low-lying areas on Friday morning. Residents were advised to shelter in place.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: Responders include the Minot Fire Department, the Minot Rural Fire Department, the Burlington Fire Department, the Minot Air Force Base Hazardous Material Unit, the Minot Police Department, the Ward County Sheriff's Office, the Ward County Emergency Management and the Canadian Pacific Railway Environmental Affairs Office.

STATE: Agencies providing support include the Governor's Office, State Radio Communications, the Department of Health, the State Fire Marshal's Office, the State Highway Patrol, the Department of Human Services, the Department of Transportation, State Veterinarian's Office, University System and the Division of Emergency Management.

FEDERAL: To date, officials from the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Minot Air Force Base and the NWS are providing assistance.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: No change from the previous report.
6. MAJOR ACTIONS: The members of the Minnesota National Guard's 55th Civil Support Team (CST) monitored the air quality. At 10:00 p.m., Friday, January 18, the team deemed the air quality safe for home checks in the Terricita Vallejo subdivision. Ward County Sheriff's Office deputies escorted evacuees, Xcel Energy and Montana Dakota Utilities (MDU) officials during these home checks. The power was also restored.

Members of the CST were released on Saturday morning.

Two anhydrous tanks continue to leak, and officials are misting the tanks with water as responders proceed with the clean up and recovery operations. Canadian Pacific Railway officials hope to have the area stabilized enough by Saturday afternoon to bring in equipment to down load product off additional cars. A one-half mile exclusion zone exists around the derailment site.

Canadian Pacific Railway opened a claims center at Dakota Square Mall. Hours of operation are from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Based on the event recorder located on the train, investigators for the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) determined by the train was traveling at speed within the parameters for track and train. The investigation continues to determine the actual cause of derailment.

A representative of the N.D. Department of Health Environmental Section and Environment Protection Agency (EPA) Response Team continue to assist. Other state health officials have returned home.

Representatives from the N.D. Department of Health, First District Health Unit and Trinity Medical Center are developing a plan to do follow-up pulmonary function exams of all first responders and those who were treated. The follow-up exams will start next week and then will be repeated in a one- to two-month time frame. There will be no cost to the individuals.

The Command Post will be moving from the Fire Station #1 at 10:00 a.m. Sunday, January 20, to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at Room 201 of the City Auditorium.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No additional requests have been received.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from the previous report.
9. OTHER: Appropriate state and local emergency operations plans have been implemented.

Situation Reports published by North Dakota Emergency Management are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director